

Jenae Thornberry

From: Jenae Thornberry on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2025 12:24 PM
To: 'Jeannie S. James'
Subject: RE: For Docket NO. 20240032-SU

Good Afternoon ,

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20240032, and forwarding them to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Thank you.

Jenae Thornberry

Commission Deputy Clerk I
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From: Jeannie S. James <jsjames@marlynsteel.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2025 11:59 AM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: For Docket NO. 20240032-SU

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Please add my letter to Docket number 20240032-DU

Thank you,
Jeannie James

My name is Jeannie James. We did attend the January 28th meetings and I was given time to speak. But would like to make sure the rest of my comments are taken into consideration.

Our home is located at 281 N Gulf Blvd on Don Pedro/Knight Island. Our home is not a rental and we use it part time. We have just gone through two hurricanes that damaged our beaches, flattened all of our dunes, and flooded the whole island. We are now in the process of cleaning and repairing. This is not the time to add this extra burden to the transportation which is by barge.

In the morning it can take over an hour in lines waiting for our trades to access the barge. Then there can be another hour wait to get off the island for our trades who get in line by 3 or 4:00. All of this is due to the need to just rebuild the island from the damages of these Hurricanes. We also had the exact experience in barge traffic after Hurricane Ian. This delay in time increases our cost to rebuild because we, the consumer, has to pay for our trades waiting to get on and off the island.

This is also not the time to add this extra financial burden either. For those of us that built to code on pilings the National Flood insurance pay little to nothing for such structures.

Our current septic system is the old fashion cement tank with a drain field. We had NO issues with it during or after these last three hurricanes. Even when we didn't have water or power we were able to fill the back of the toilets with water by hand and flush.

During Hurricane Ian and the last hurricane we did not get our power restored for approx. a week. If we couldn't wash or flush during this time we may have had a bigger health issue.

The environmental conditions on a barrier island does not equate to the conditions on the mainland. The salt air is very toxic and hard on equipment. We have had to change out our air conditioners much faster than on the mainland away from the salt air. Since 2018 we have already had to replaced our air-condition which we did last summer. We have even had to change out our TV dish 3 times since 2018.

Hurricane Milton did not destroy our cement septic tank nor touch our field. But this hurricane did crush our public utility water meter box that is in the easement in the road right of way. It would be reasonable to assume that if these grinder

systems were installed in this right of way they too would have been severely damaged in this last storm. Matter of fact that was one of my first thoughts after the storm. I was so thankful we did not have those plastic tanks that can hold sewage for 3 days. It is my belief from the looks of the damage that occurred on the island, these tanks would have been damaged by Hurricane Milton.

I have no doubt some tanks were damaged from Milton, but this new low pressure system, being not buried as deep as a convention sewer system, would also receive damage from such a storm. Either the grinder or vacuum system will all be as vulnerable to hurricane damage as any septic system available. The positive attributes of these systems is that they do NOT have to be buried deep. The only truly better system is the gravitational sewer system because it is buried deep enough to sustain some of the most damaging hurricanes. Unless this is the gravitational system is installed we will of achieved nothing.

Another very important issue with EU's application is they do not provide a performance and payment bond for this project. If this project was being done by the county they would be required by law to have the company they hire put up a performance and payment bond to protect themselves and the citizens receiving the work. The law only requires "Governmental" businesses to require them. But private companies can purchase such bonds for large commercial projects. Theses bonds protect both the entity contracting with the developer and the material suppliers and subcontractors working on the project. These bonds are taken out by the developer (contractor) from an insurance company. Without this bond there is NO protection for the people. The county and state SHOULD NOT BE CIRCUMVENTING THIS LAW.

These bonds not only protect material suppliers and subcontractors but these bonds protect taxpayers and the county and gives assurance that the developer will perform the project and properly install it. And if down the road it is discovered that it was not properly installed the county/ taxpayer can look to the insurance company to pay to fix it.

We have already been involved in a situation where a bond was not requested and we ended up having to come out of pocket a 2nd time because it was discovered a few years later the items were not installed properly. Performance bonds protect the people.

We on this island all want to preserve the natural integrity of this island. We have no high rises and only one low rise resort on the island. It is not your average island in Florida. It is reminiscent of Florida 50 years ago of which we remember. There are areas of 6.4 residence per acre but the vast majority of the island is much less dense. Due to the fact that most of the island is occupied by part-time residence the occupancy rate is well under the normal usage for the land. It is truly just a sleepy residential island without the need for this Low pressure Grinder system.

We do not want to change out our working system septic system for a system that has a bigger potential to fail due to its mechanical parts. If the people know that our current system is causing environmental damage I am sure the vast majority on the island will work to fix it. Whether we reduce the capacity of use on the remaining empty lots. Or install other septic systems that remove the harming nutrients. .

Bottom line -

We DO NOT NEED OR WANT THIS LOW PRESURE SEWER SYSTEM.

Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,
Jeannie James